

DISTINCTIVE DIFFERENCES

For the examination of the differentiation and division of ‘Hungarian society’!

Abstract

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How is ‘Hungarian society’ divided? – My thesis attempts to find an answer to this question. Based on the assumption that all the related observations presume an observer, I am going to examine the statements and findings made by professional observers of the last fifty years. So the question about the distinction of ‘Hungarian society’ switches focus – therefore the real question is: ‘*How* did these observers divide our society through their observations?’ These observations about ‘Hungarian society’ – recorded during the last five decades and created by the observers of Hungarian sociology renewed in 1963 – are analysed and reconstructed in my dissertation.

Foremost – but not exclusively – my thesis aims to provide a critical reconsideration of traditional social research by presenting the studies focused on the structure, stratification and inequalities of the Hungarian society. My dissertation gives an overall and detailed picture of the research and their results in the period between 1963–2013 which significantly contributed to the alteration of the ever changing view of the Hungarian society. Through *observing* the observers’ observations – also known as ‘second-order observation’ by Niklas Luhmann – some correlations may get revealed which originally had not been observed by the observers. My main objective is to contribute to the formation of the current image of our society by analysing the observations (research results and publications) and emphasising their differences and controversial points.